

“Crow Call”

Some things are hard to talk about but easier to show. In her story “Crow Call,” Lois Lowry demonstrates how a father who has just returned from war manages to show his daughter how he feels without actually telling her. “Crow Call” was also particularly meaningful to me because it made me think about my relationship with my father.

In the beginning of the story, the girl and her father are driving to hunt in the early morning. The girl is worried about hunting, and her father reassures her that she’ll just be in charge of the crow call, a whistle used to flush crows out of trees. **Then** he goes on to chuckle, **“Of course, having that shirt will help.”** Her father bought the hunting shirt for her when he saw her eyeing it in the shop window. **What struck me about this was that the girl never really asked for the shirt. He was able to understand that she wanted it just from her actions. This shows that the father was sensitive to his daughter’s feelings.** When I thought about my reaction, I realized that in some ways my father is like the father in the story. It amazes me when he figures out what I want or need, even without me saying so.

At the climax of the story, they get to the hill where the crows are. Here, they have a conversation that reveals why they are hunting crows: the birds eat the crops. “They don’t know any better,” says the father. “Even people do bad things without meaning to.” I thought that he was using the crows’ behavior as a **metaphor** for things he had to do during the war. He didn’t want to talk to his daughter about the war directly, but he wanted to show her how he felt about it.

Finally, the narrator blows the crow call. Little by little, the crows answer, flying up from the trees. “Listen, Daddy! Do you hear them? They think I’m their friend! Maybe their baby, all grown up!” She blows the whistle again and again, running up and down the hill. Then her father comes down and they walk off, hand in hand, while the crows circle overhead, unharmed. Lowry didn’t tell readers the father decided not to shoot the crows—she showed it by describing the characters’ actions, which goes along with the overall theme of showing instead of telling. I thought it also showed how being with his daughter brought him a little relief from the pain and guilt of war: he might not have had a choice about fighting soldiers, but today, he could choose not to kill crows.

“Crow Call” is an excellent story because **it shows how some of the most important things in life are shown, not told. It made me think about ways I can become closer to my own father by paying attention to what is said when we don’t say anything.**

interesting statement
draws readers in
thesis statement
immediately shows
why the text is
meaningful to the
writer

transition helps
readers keep track
of what the writer is
talking about
transition helps
readers follow along;
quotation helps
response stay close
to the text and not
get off-track
writer explains why
and how the text
produced a response
transition helps
readers follow along;
literary term *climax*
makes response
more specific
literary term
metaphor helps
writer make a
sophisticated point
transition helps
readers follow along

Conclusion
summarizes meaning
of text and writer’s
reaction to it